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offences against the sixth commandment, against the law of nature, against the laws of God given by Moses, against the Christian religion. In all wars, one side is in fault, sometimes both; and in this case war is no better than robbery and murder, the guilt of which lies, I do not say, upon the soldiers, but upon those in whose hands is lodged the power of declaring war.

*Jeremy Taylor.*—The Christian religion hath made no particular provision for the conduct of war under a proper title; and if men be subjects of Christ's law, they can never go to war with each other. As contrary as cruelty is to mercy, tyranny to charity, so is war and bloodshed to the meekness and gentleness of the Christian religion; and such is the excellency of Christ's doctrine, that, if men would obey it, Christians would never war one against another.

*Richard Cecil.*—There is something worse than the plunder of the ruffian, than the outrage of the ravisher, than the stab of the murderer. There is a shocking moral appendage naturally growing out of national conflicts. Instead of listening to the counsels of divine mercy, and concurring in the design of a kingdom of heaven set up on earth in "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost," the spirit of warlike discord tends to entomb every such idea. It tends rather to set up something like a *kingdom of hell*, a reign of violence where destruction is the grand enterprise; where the means of death and desolation are cultivated as a science; where invention is racked to produce ruin, and the performance of it is ennobled by public applause. Moloch seems once more enthroned; while ambition, revenge and oppression erect their banners amidst groans and tears, amidst cities desolated, or smoking in their ashes.

**DEMORALIZATION FROM WAR.**—There is always a fearful amount of general demoralization attendant on war in any form. There was in our revolutionary conflict of eight years with England, as there has been in the late struggle with our slaveholding rebels. Our success in the former case, and the general excellence of its leaders, screened the accompanying and consequent demoralization from the reproach or lamentation which it would otherwise have called forth; but the main facts were well known and fully admitted at the time, and some of them were years ago quoted on our pages. Ever since the rise of our late rebellion our land has been full of similar facts illustrating the wide and fearful demoralization which it occasioned. Only a mere fraction of them have as yet been given to the public; but should they ever be, they will form a startling commentary alike on human depravity, and the manifold, ubiquitous demoralization inseparable from war in its most excusable and best regulated forms. We have purposely abstained thus far from attempting to embody any general aggregate of them; but we have been quietly accumulating them in detail, and may in due time lay them before the public. The great moral, political and financial lessons, so terribly taught by our late rebellion, are yet to be held aloft as warnings to our country and the world through all coming ages.

Here is one of the smallest forms of the general demoralization, a species of pécadillo at which nine in ten of the government employees are wont to laugh until brought

to a strict account by some committee or individual simple enough in his honesty to demand it. "Some days ago (late in Feb., 1869) the House Committee on Pensions submitted a resolution to increase the compensation of the Clerk of that Committee. A discussion ensued relative to the amount of money expended for clerks of committees; and out of this discussion grew a resolution directing the Committee on Accounts to investigate the whole subject. The Committee attended to the duty thus imposed, and all the clerks of committees were in turn called and examined relative to their respective duties. The testimony, it is said, will show that *three-fourths* of the committee clerkships are *mere sinecures*. In some instances clerks receive their per diem, or annual compensation, when they have not done ten days' work throughout the year."

**MILITARY SINECURES IN ENGLAND.**—Her government is full of them, both civil and military; but the sinecures in her army and navy are the worst of all and the most numerous. The Army List contains the names of 700 generals, nearly 1,000 full colonels, about 1,000 lieutenant-colonels, and 1,100 majors, in addition to three or four thousand similar dignitaries in the Indian army. Even in time of war the majority of these offices are wholly superfluous, but in peace they form a most extravagantly crushing burthen of expensive sinecurists. Such facts as these go far to explain the enormous cost of the war-system.

#### THE CRUSHING ARMAMENTS OF EUROPE.

A letter from a Military Correspondent a few days ago described the present actual stage of a preparation without parallel in the world. The preparation is for the largest and quickest possible destruction of the human species, and never before was it so advanced, so complete, so scientific, and so ready for immediate use. Numbers have not now the value in military questions they once had, but they still count for something, and five continental nations have five and a half millions of men either ready to march to-morrow, or to follow at short intervals. These are the most warlike races, and all have their special qualities for the work. Of one race we are told that they are born soldiers, and never so much at home as on the battle-field; of another, that they will endure everything, and go wherever they are commanded; of another, that a national appeal will unite them all as one man, differ as they may in their habits of warfare; of another, that they only want organization and leaders; of another, that they are only too vivacious and difficult to restrain.

These are the forces of the first-class continental powers—only the more active elements that are included in the survey; the outsiders are left outside. The loose extremities of the great European organization are left hanging or lying about. They would have their place and work in an actual fray, but for the present they need not be noticed. This is a question of vitality, design, and will. There are five million and a half men of action, each resolved to sell his life dear, and to help turn the balance considerably one way or the other, that is, if he is to be called into action at all; and each is fully aware that he may be. A large proportion of these men are under regular and constant training on one system of tactics or another—old-fashioned, new lights, experimental, or improved by very recent experience. The Prussians have learnt much, and even the Austrians something, in Denmark and Bohemia. Then even the latter had hardly anything to learn in theirartil-

lery and cavalry. There are stories, indeed, of the Russians being behindhand, and of trickeries being found necessary to deceive the eyes of the Emperor; but we remember similar stories, with merely circumstantial differences, in the publications of the last century, which certainly were belied by the results. We have very little doubt that there is not much to choose between the different sections of this enormous mass of armed life. Any hundred thousand of them would probably be found a fair match for any other hundred thousand; and there are nearly sixty bodies of that number of men. Including the outsiders—pretty certain to be insiders, should the war not be concluded within two or three years—there cannot be less than a hundred such bodies, that is, ten million armed men.

But this stupendous enumeration is the least part of the great fact. Everything—numbers, national characteristics, military genius, and what not—yields in importance and present significance to the rivalry of skill, now aided and fostered by the largest resources ever at the command of military powers. The art of human destruction has, for many years, been allowed to take precedence over all other arts. It has been studied with greater skill, and made the subject of the most costly experiments. There are few persons so far from the haunts of men, or so slow in following objects of common interest, as not to enter with warm and intelligent curiosity into the numerous successive inventions and improvements in artillery, musketry, and all kinds of arms and defences. The weapons of the age are now as ingenious, as elaborate, and as exact in their construction as a chronometer, or a philosophical apparatus. The object is to carry as far as possible, as truly as possible, and to repeat the deadly operation as rapidly as possible, so that it be done coolly and correctly. The weapon now put into the hand of a common soldier for this purpose would have astonished the makers of the fifty-guinea fowling pieces our fathers were proud to possess.

The next war is to be a great shooting-match for the trial of half-a-dozen different rifles, upon the merits of which military men are still divided, but each good in its way. As to guns, we have been ringing the changes on brass, iron, steel, cast guns, built guns, coils, composite, converted, smooth-bores, breech-loaders, muzzle-loaders, guns of every imaginable kind, by as many great competing makers, till it costs an effort of memory to know exactly how we stand, and what is positively the last gun. It is certain, however, that there is a prodigious number of very good guns all ready to be used, and also in the event of any one carrying off the palm in the expected competition, it will be easily multiplied to any extent, so many first-rate establishments are there for the purpose in good working order.

There are, also, some novelties in ordnance of a rather terrible character, but they don't seem to be much reckoned on for hard killing under ordinary circumstances. The pace of improvement is equally brisk in the matter of ammunition, accoutrements, carriages, and other points comparatively unheeded in the wars of our forefathers. A soldier is now a man of science if an officer, a skilled mechanic if in the ranks, and expected to be a man of genius and enterprise if in command. Establishments most cosmopolitan in their character readily supply all nations with the means of mutual destruction; and the science itself is pursued and professed with an impartial desire to witness the greatest possible results. The favorite study of the age will suffer an immense disappointment if it cannot reckon its success by millions of slain!

But what is all this for? Whom is it for? Who wishes it? Who has any purpose to be answered? Who holds

this enormous avalanche suspended over our heads, waiting for the one fatal footfall or sound? There is the paradox. No nation wishes for war. Of the half-dozen sovereigns who would have to give the word of command, not one desires war, or feels his interest to lie that way. Not one is naturally disposed to war, or now inclined to it by circumstances. Of the armies themselves, perhaps there are five men in a hundred, if so many, who do not wish for peace, for their discharge, and for their return to some peaceful employment. The statesmen all wish for peace. All nations are heavily in debt, and disabled from prosecuting numerous works long desired, by the dedication of the public money to the preparations for war.

The cost of preparation, indeed, is felt to be almost as ruinous as the cost of actual war, and to be worse in having no legitimate conclusion. A war may come to an end one way or the other; but the preparation for war can only end in war. Of one power it is said that now is its time for war, as it will never be better prepared; of another, that it would gain immensely by a respite for five years; of another, that it cannot be depended on a single day for either keeping out of war, or keeping steadily at it; of another, that it probably contemplates war at its own time, but may find its hand forced before its time; of another, that it cannot possibly wish to precipitate war, because time is wanting for it; and, of another, that since it is perishing and falling to pieces in peace, much more will it in war.

The sum of this is that no one man wishes for war, no class of men wish for war, and the public opinion of Europe would gladly see the way to pacification, disarmament, and a return to peaceful policy. Why, then, is this not to be? Why is it even doubtful? The danger consists in the *universal preparation*. The continent is one vast magazine which an incendiary may fire. One insignificant state, one man happening to be in power, may push the first cause that sets the mass in motion. They who would wait, may find themselves not allowed to wait. They who wish to frighten, may have to fulfil their threats. They who are looking about for partners, may have to enter the dance without them. When anything is more or less ready, the word of command is too easily given. It may be given even by mistake; but, once given, it cannot be recalled.

We ought to have something more than fortunate accidents, or the absence of mistakes to depend upon. Europe is not safe for a day, unless there be a common determination not to go to war, and a consequent determination to regard as the enemies of Europe those who would force a war upon her. Without this security, we are at war already in effect, and the actual outbreak is only a question of time.—*London Times*.

**WEALTH AND POVERTY IN ENGLAND.**—England is the richest nation in the world, but may be called the poorest also. She has richest commerce and the richest church. Her commerce creates an interchange of products worth £450,000,000 sterling annually. Her church endowments approach £100,000,000 sterling in value, yielding a revenue of some £9,000,000 sterling every year. Yet out of 20,000,000 of people, 1,000,000 are set down as paupers. One person in every twenty of her population is a pauper. But this 1,000,000 is by no means the measure of the vast seething mass of poverty that festers in her cities, towns, and villages, breeding pestilence and crime, and burdening the industrious classes too unequally with heavy loads of taxation.

**HOW GOVERNMENTS GET THEIR SUPPORT.**—It is said the French Government received from the heirs of the late Baron Rothschild a legacy duty of no less than 20,000,000 francs, or \$4,000,000.